TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Olympia, Puget Sound, Washington
Territory January 8th 1854

My Dear Doctor

Enclosed I take the liberty of sending you a twig and a few seeds of an odoriferous shrub which grows in this neighborhood, but is said to be rare even here. It preserves its leaves in winter, though from their shrivelling somewhat during the coldest weather I imagine it is not quite at home in this latitude. Its flowers I have not seen, they are said to be white. The man who brought me the plant, a Mr Lucien A Brooks, was very anxious to know its name and whether described or not. It grows on the edge of the prairies, to about a man's height - its twigs are straight & not much branched, the leaves alternate, bark green. He states that the glutinous gum which covers the leaves and which I suppose to be honey dew is invariably found upon them. The shrub may for aught I know be a common one, but I have not often noticed it, though familiar to me as right pay with most of the plants of this country. The odor is much like that of a species of Juglans growing in California near the rivers I know there as the bay, wild olive, sweet laurel &c.

If you will take the trouble to drop me a line directed to Astoria, Oregon, I shall be much obliged to you.

With great respect

Yours very truly

Geo Gibbs

x [Ceanothus velutinus, Hook.

t. 45.

Dr John Torrey

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Steilacoom, Washington Terr'y.
Dec. 12. 1854.

Rec'd. Feby. 11th.

SMITHSONIAN CORRESPONDENCE
LIBRARY
COLUMBIA

My dear Doctor

Your favor of March 23d & "accompanying documents" as the papers attached to the Brit's message are called, reached me only yesterday, having performed some of the circuitous journeys which form the shortest mail routes of the federal government. I have during the past season assisted Dr Suckley somewhat in his zoological collections, but not obtained many plants, although I was for some weeks in the mountains around but Rainier; but being engaged in surveying, & much of the time on foot, I could not preserve specimens. My immediate neighborhood is not rich in plants, but there are however occasional opportunities of collecting, & now that at last I have a horse of my own, I shall perhaps be better able to serve you. I have taken up my residence near Fort Steilacoom, in the neighborhood of Puget Sound, and have a farm in embryo, but as much of my occupation consists in tramping with government parties, I am ~~much~~ often absent when its interests require. So much the better chance however to collect. I will send the ~~plant~~ name of the plant to the gentleman who found it & shall make him get me one for my door yard. I lost one quite extensive collection of plants which I made in crossing the plains by

the accidental overturning of my wagon & the team
the ship I presume glad to get rid of the weight - my
mineralogical specimens bring in the same box, left
the whole on the ground. It is most likely that next
summer I shall be in the field again & I will then
try & make up an herbal, as at home I have
facilities for keeping them.

I presume you see my brother frequently. He
has made more of a figure in the religious than
in the scientific world of late, & not of his own
seeking either. Wishing you health & long life of
pleasant labor

I am

Very respectfully yours

Geo Gibbs

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Dr John Torrey